IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): An optical recording medium having a phase change recording layer containing antimony as a main component, in which recorded marks having a shortest length of up to 350 nm are formed, wherein said recording layer does not include Ag.

Claim 2 (Original): The optical recording medium of claim 1 wherein said recording layer further contains tellurium or indium or both as a main component.

Claim 3 (Original): The optical recording medium of claim 1 wherein said recording layer further contains at least one element selected from the group consisting of germanium, nitrogen and rare earth elements as an auxiliary component.

Claim 4 (Original): An optical recording method comprising the step of irradiating recording beam which has been power modulated between a high power and a low power, to the optical recording medium of any one of claims 1 to 3 for thereby forming amorphous recorded marks in the recording layer, said recorded marks including shortest recorded marks having a leading edge and a trailing edge, at least a part of the trailing edge being convex toward the leading edge.

Claim 5 (Original): The optical recording method of claim 4 wherein the convex shape at the trailing edge of the shortest recorded marks is formed by causing the regions melted by irradiation of recording beam to crystallize.

Claim 6 (Original): The optical recording method of claim 4 wherein the shortest recorded marks are formed so as to meet the relationship:

$$M_L \leq 0.4\lambda/NA$$

wherein the shortest recorded marks have a length M_L, the recording beam has a wavelength λ, and an objective lens of a recording optical system by which the recording beam is transmitted has a numerical aperture NA.

Claim 7 (Original): The optical recording method of claim 4 wherein the shortest recorded marks are formed so as to meet the relationship:

$$M_W/M_L > 1$$

wherein the shortest recorded marks have a width M_W and a length M_L.